

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-07 SAI-01

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PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /098 W

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R 131217Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2920

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 20389

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FT, ET, FR

SUBJECT: ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR COMMENTS ON DJIBOUTI

1. DURING CALL JULY 12, ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR HAILOU WOLDE-GIORGHIS INFORMED DCM THAT ELYSEE AFRICAN AFFAIRS ADVISER JOURNIAC TOLD HIM BLUNTLY LAST WEEK THAT THERE IS NO QUESTION OF ALI AREF'S STAYING IN OFFICE. THE FRENCH HAVE ASKED THE ETHIOPIANS TO TRY TO PERSUADE THE FTAI PRESIDENT TO LIMIT HIS CRITICISM OF FRANCE. HAILOU FOUND THIS IRONIC GIVEN ALI AREF'S PRO-FRENCH BACKGROUND.

2. ACCORDING TO HAILOU, THE PRINCIPAL FRENCH CANDIDATES TO REPLACE ALI AREF ARE OPPOSITION LEADER BARKAT GOURAT AND THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE FTAI GOVERNMENT, WITH THE LPAI'S GOULAD AND DINI MUCH FARTHER DOWN THE LIST. HAILOU EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS

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ABOUT ALL FOUR, NOTING THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S CLOSE

RELATIONSHIP WITH ALI MIRAH AND SUPPORT FOR A GREATER
AFARLAND, AND THE LPAI LEADERS' QUESTIONABLE TIES
WITH MOGADISCIO.

3. HAILOU WAS PERPLEXED BY THE RECENT TOAST MADE BY
A SOVIET LEADER IN MOSCOW CALLING UPON ETHIOPIA TO
BE CAUTIOUS ABOUT DJIBOUTI. HE SPECULATED THAT IT
MIGHT BE INTENDED AS A COUNTERBALANCE FOR SOVIET
PRIVATE ADMONITIONS TO THE SOMALIS TO THE SAME EFFECT.
ADMITTING THAT THE ETHIOPIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY DOES NOT
REALLY THINK SOMALIA CAN PUBLICLY RENOUNCE CLAIMS TO
DJIBOUTI, HAILOU SAID THAT THE ISSUE IS BEING
USED FOR TACTICAL PURPOSES.

4. COMMENT: HAILOU, WHO HAS BEEN IN PARIS ABOUT SIX
MONTHS, APPEARS AMAZINGLY READY, FOR AN ETHIOPIAN, TO
EXCHANGE VIEWS FRANKLY. WE ARE NOT YET ABLE TO JUDGE
HOW WELL CONNECTED HE IS OR TO ASSESS HIS RELIABILITY,
BUT OUR INITIAL IMPRESSIONS ARE FAVORABLE.
RUSH

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